

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7-15 are currently pending in the present application, with Claims 1, 5, 8, and 9 being amended, and new Claims 12-15 being added. Reconsideration and reexamination of the claims are respectfully requested.

The Examiner objected to the Title as not be descriptive. Applicants have amended the Title to more clearly describe the invention claimed and respectfully submit that the title satisfies the requirements of the USPTO.

The Examiner rejected Claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner indicated that the recitation “predetermined operating elements” is cleared as to what is predetermined. Applicants note that Claim 5 was amended via a Corrected Amendment that was filed with the Office on February 15, 2008, and respectfully submit that Claim 5 is therefore compliant with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Roland VS-1680 Owner’s Manual (hereinafter “Roland”). This rejection is respectfully traversed with respect to the amended claims.

As previously communicated, the present invention is directed to a signal processing apparatus, such as a musical signal processing apparatus that includes inputs and outputs. In addition to inputs and outputs, the apparatus further includes an input patch, internal the signal processing apparatus, for connecting between input ports and input channels. The input patch may be configured to set connection an on-to-one correspondence between a particular input port and a particular input channel. The signal processing apparatus further includes setting means for setting

correspondence between input and output ports. Finally, the signal processing apparatus includes transmission control means that transmits control signals via the output ports that correspond to a particular input port.

As further communicated, the present invention provides the ability of transmitting control signals from an output port, in correspondence with the input port, regardless of whether a user may change the connection correspondence between input ports and input channels. For instance and by way of an example, referring to the mixer device M of the preferred embodiment of the present invention, the connection between the input ports 23 (1 to 3) and the input channels CH 1 to 3 can be changed, while the connections between the recorders 12 (1 to 3) and the input ports 23 (1 to 3), between the input channels CH 1 to 3 and the faders (1 to 3), and between the recorders 12 (1 to 3) and the GPI outs 1-2, 3-4, and 5-6 (the output ports) need not (and cannot) be changed.

Applicants have further amended the claims to further clarify that the control signals do not include any audio components. As a result, during operation of the operating elements, *even if* the connections between the input ports and input channels (as set in the input patch) are changed, the control signal is still be transmitted from the output port that corresponds to the input port connected to the input channel that corresponds to the operating element being manipulated.

Roland does not contain any disclosure or suggestion of, *inter alia*, a plurality of output ports as the term is recited in the amended claims in that Roland does not transmit any non-audio control signals. Again, Applicants note that none of the MIX L/R (MASTER), or the REC 1-8, transmit a control signal of any kind, and thus cannot be correlated to the output ports of the present invention as recited in the claims. Again, Applicants have further amended the claims to clarify that control signals, as that term is construed in the claims, do not include audio signals. Applicants note

that the PHONES jack 5, the MONITOR jack 6, AUX A jack 7, AUX B jack 8, and MASTER OUT jack 9 all output analog audio signals (see, page 18). By the definition of the term as recited in the amended claims, none of the jacks transmit any control signals.

Moreover, arrows shown in page 26 of Roland (extended from the Input Mixer to MIX L/R (MASTER)) represent wire connections for transmitting analog audio signals, not control signals. Accordingly, the Input Mixer as shown in page 25 of Roland does not correspond to “setting means” as recited in amended Claims 1 and 8.

Finally, since the recording section disclosed in Roland is disposed in the interior of the Roland VS-1680, the recording section shown does not correspond to the external device as recited in amended Claims 1 and 8. Same arguments are applicable to the remainder of the claims.

Again, with specific regard to Claims 5, 7, 9 and 11, Applicants note that the FADER/MUTE button disclosed in Roland is used only for assigning faders on the panel to the track mixer or the input mixer; the button does not perform the function of mode setting for selectively setting a first mode or a second mode from which a non-audio control signal is to be transmitted.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7-11 are not anticipated by, nor obvious in view of, Roland.

New claims 12-15 are added to recite additional details of the preferred embodiments and are also submitted as in condition for allowance.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number

given below. In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 393032039900. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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